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REMARKS

Claims 1-29 are pending in the present Application. Claims 4, 7, 12, and 17 have been cancelled, Claims 1, 5, 10, 14, 15, 20, and 27 have been amended, and Claims 30-68 have been added, leaving Claims 1-3, 5-6, 8-11, 13-16, and 18-68 for consideration upon entry of the present Amendment.

Support for the amendments to the claims and the new claims can be found in the claims as originally filed, as presented in more detail below. No new matter has been introduced by these amendments and new claims.

Reconsideration and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Allowable Claims

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowability for Claims 19-26 and 29.

Claim Objections

Claims 4, 7, 9, 12-13, and 17-18 are objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of Claim 4; Claim 10 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of Claim 12; and Claim 15 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of Claim 17. It is believed that claims 1, 10, and 15 are now allowable. Claims 2-3, 5-6, 8-9, 11, 13, 16, and 18 are also allowable, as depending from allowable claims. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections is therefore respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-3, 5-6, 8, 10-11, 14-16, and 27-28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as allegedly unpatentable over Shaw et al. (5,125,138) in view of Schoenfeld et al (6,180,025).

It is believed that claims 1-3, 5-6, 8-11, 13, 15-16, and 18 are allowable over the cited

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art in view of the above amendments.

Claims 14 and 27 have also been amended to incorporate the limitations of objected-to claim 4. It is believed that this amendment renders claims 14 and 27 allowable, as neither of the references teaches or suggests use of a particulate filler, fibrous web, or combination thereof.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of Claims 14 and 27.

New Claims

Claims 30-68 have been added to further claim the invention. Antecedent basis for these new claims is found in at least the claims as originally filed.

In particular, new dependent Claims 30-36 depend from allowed independent Claim 29, and are analogous to dependent Claims 2-3 and 5-9 as originally filed.

New Claims 37-38 depend from Claim 10 and are analogous to dependent claims 6 and 8 as originally filed.

New Claims 39-44 depend from Claim 14 and are analogous to dependent claims 2-3, 5-6, and 8-9 as originally filed.

New Claims 45-46 depend from Claim 15 and are analogous to dependent claims 6 and 8 as originally filed.

New Claim 47 depends from Claim 19 and is analogous to dependent claim 8 as originally filed.

New Claims 48-49 depend from Claim 23 and are analogous to dependent claims 2 and 8 as originally filed.

New Claims 50-54 depend from Claim 27 and are analogous to dependent claims 3, 5-6, and 8-9 as originally filed.

New Claim 55 has antecedent basis in claim 1 and objected-to claim 9 as originally filed. New Claims 56-60 depend from Claim 55 and are analogous to dependent claims 2-3, 5-6, and 8 as originally filed.

New Claim 61 has antecedent basis in claim 10 and objected-to claim 13 as originally

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filed. New Claims 62-64 depend from Claim 61 and are analogous to dependent claims 2, 6, and 8 as originally filed.

New Claim 65 has antecedent basis in claim 15 and objected-to claim 18 as originally filed. New Claims 66-68 depend from Claim 65 and are analogous to dependent claims 2, 6, and 8 as originally filed.

Information Disclosure Form 1449 with Incomplete Initialing

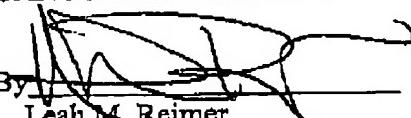
It is respectfully noted that the Search Report (PCT/US03/27216) on SHEET 1 of the Information Disclosure Statement that was sent on Jan. 20, 2004 was not initialed (copy enclosed). It would be appreciated if the Examiner could provide an updated Information Disclosure Citation sheet with all references initialed. A duplicate of the sheet is provided for the Examiner's convenience.

It is believed that the foregoing amendments and remarks fully comply with the Office Action and that the claims herein should now be allowable to Applicants. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

If there are any additional charges with respect to this Amendment or otherwise, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 06-1130.

Respectfully submitted,

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